

Acts # 69 “Lydia, a Magnificent Lady” Acts 16:5-15

This morning, we’ll be introduced to a lady that we don’t know was physically beautiful or not; a woman who wasn’t perfect and didn’t think she was.

She was apparently a savvy business woman who was humble and that’s a rare combination.

Lydia is truly a magnificent lady; not because she’s rich, industrious or famous but because she’s living the normal ordinary Christian life which makes an extraordinary impact on all she comes in contact with.

She’s simply doing something we all can do if we have the same desire.

Paul was in tune with the Holy Spirit’s guidance as he operated often on the closed door policy in going forward with what seemed to be right to him, knowing that omnipotent God could halt all forward progress if He so desired.

In two years, Paul will return to Asia, specifically Ephesus to found a Bible institute to train evangelists and pastors to establish churches in Asia.

Until then, the Holy Spirit wants Paul and company to go to Europe, not Asia.

It’s sad that far too many Christians live their lives like the man trapped on his roof in a flood rejecting all of God’s gracious offers of lifeboats and helicopters; choosing rather to wait for their very own predetermined sign instead of recognizing God’s gifts.

Note the persistence of Paul; every time he reached a closed door, he didn’t stop and become discouraged, he kept on moving on, not turning around and going back.

Today with the completed Scriptures, there’s no need for guidance by dreams or visions.

The last legitimate vision for divine guidance was that of the Apostle John recorded in Revelation and since then, visions and dreams are no longer bona fide means of guidance.

Once the Scriptures are closed, all guidance comes through the Word of God by means of the ministry of God, the Holy Spirit; John 16:13a “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”

Paul didn’t choose to witness until he had the perfect opportunity.

Paul chose important cities knowing he’d have large audiences of influential people on the heavily travelled trade routes.

Paul’s plan was to establish doctrinal congregations that would be able to send missionaries to the outlying areas.

Because there was no synagogue, a few Jews would go to have a word of prayer which indicates their desire to hear the Word of God to get to know Him in an intimate way.

Lydia is a magnificent lady because she is humble although she has plenty to brag about for her human accomplishments; she is strong yet meek meaning she has power under control and she’s a pioneer in the sense that she is first to believe in Jesus Christ in her community and in all Europe ahead of all the men and she’s discerning enough to recognize the importance of offering her home to the travelling apostle and his team

The spiritual life is not a clone project; it's a system of biblical principles, not designed to change our personality but designed to glorify God and His personality.

Only you can live your spiritual life and to abandon your spiritual life is one of the worst tragedies in life.
Many believers do not discover how useless their lives have been until they die because they've spent their entire lives trying to prove something to others.

When we ignore the power of God found in the filling of the Holy Spirit and processed biblical truth, we will self-destruct due to our own bad decisions and avoidance in taking the responsibility for them.